

**House Resolution**

**No. 37**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Portantino**

August 25, 2010

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House Resolution No. 37—Relative to access to religious nonmedical care as part of California’s implementation of national health care reform legislation.

- 1 WHEREAS, The express goal of the recently enacted federal  
2 health care reform legislation is to include all Americans within a  
3 comprehensive health insurance program; and  
4 WHEREAS, Many Californians will be required by the federal  
5 government to purchase medical health insurance that does not  
6 cover the type of care they have found to be most effective; and  
7 WHEREAS, Californians are a diverse population and should  
8 have options when it comes to their choice of health care; and  
9 WHEREAS, All Californians should have access to the type of  
10 health care they have found to be most effective, including those  
11 forms of religious nonmedical care provided for in subdivision (b)  
12 of Section 22850 of the Government Code; and  
13 WHEREAS, Religious nonmedical care has a long history of  
14 inclusion in both federal and state health care law, including  
15 Medicare and Medicaid (Medi-Cal), TRICARE, four plans under  
16 the federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP), and  
17 California’s own PERSCare program; and  
18 WHEREAS, Provision for religious nonmedical care options in  
19 California law benefits many Californians, not just those who are  
20 currently relying on this form of health care; and

1 WHEREAS, It can be shown that including religious nonmedical  
2 care as part of any insurance product would not add any cost; now,  
3 therefore, be it

4 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That the  
5 Assembly acknowledges the importance of including religious  
6 nonmedical care benefits as part of those insurance plans offered  
7 through the American Health Benefit Exchange to be established  
8 by the state in order to implement the federal health care reform  
9 legislation, and encourages the United States Health and Human  
10 Services Agency to include those benefits as part of the essential  
11 benefits package pursuant to Section 1302 of the federal Patient  
12 Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148); and  
13 be it further

14 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly shall transmit  
15 copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.